



SRCAF NOTES – JUNE 2002

- ❖ **Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID)** held its dedication ceremony on June 4th, 2002 marking the completion of the Fish Screen Project and Gradient Restoration Facility. The new screen consists of an approximately 520-foot extension to the existing fish screen, new screen cleaning wipers, a screen baffling system, and upper oxbow channel improvements. The gradient facility stabilizes the riverbed to provide the required water surface elevation at the fish screen and facilitates safe and effective fish passage. Vic Fazio, former Congressman, was keynote speaker.
- ❖ The **Hamilton City “Levee Festival”** will be held on June 23rd at the Hamilton City Park (200 Broadway) from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Lots of home cooked Mexican food, children’s activities, and music! All proceeds go to the Levee Fund.
- ❖ The SRCAF will be facilitating a presentation and discussion of the Draft Findings for the Socioeconomic Assessment conducted by Jones and Stokes for TNC. The meeting, at 1:00 p.m., will follow the June 20th SRCAF Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting at the Willows City Hall; a draft report will then be prepared for review.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – May 16, 2002

Chair~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair~ Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items:

▪ **Activities Updates –**

John Oldham, Caltrans, reported on the Toomes Creek Riparian Mitigation Site in Tehama County. As a result of several upcoming bridge replacements, the Department of Transportation has purchased a mitigation site on Toomes Creek at Highway 99 in an effort to meet mitigation requirements. Most of the property consists of a prune orchard, however, there are approximately 27 acres available for restoration. The long-term goal is to sell the orchard and maintain the 27 acres as a Department mitigation bank.

Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), discussed the status of the Great Valley LEGACI grant they had received to look at good neighbor policy issues specific to TNC properties and adjacent landowners. *Sacramento River Partners (SRP)* has a new website with links to all of their projects, www.riverpartners.org.

▪ **Manager's Report –**

Hamilton City – Glenn County Board of Supervisors and HCCSD will be considering a request to the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to study a multiple objective project for Hamilton City under the Initial Project section of the Comprehensive Study.

Woodson Bridge – Discussion has re-opened exploring the possibility of asking for the COE to engage in a study to address the erosion problem at the Bridge. The SRCAF will facilitate a workgroup meeting when more information is available.

▪ **CALFED Proposal Review – Projects Recommended for Funding As Is/or In Part**

The following proposals were reviewed at the May 16th TAC :

- Sutter Mutual Water Company- RM 118.5/Sutter County. Design and construction of a positive barrier fish screen at the Tisdale Sacramento River Location. The TAC determined the project was consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook.

–Colusa Sub-Reach Study – The Nature Conservancy – RM 144-164/Colusa County. Plan protection and restoration activities in the Colusa Sub-Reach with stakeholders. The SRCAF has been involved with the development of this project from its inception as one consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook.

–Meridian Farms Water Company – Positive Barrier Fish Screen Project. This project was reviewed via email and was determined to be consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook.

▪ **Discussion on those Projects Considered As Directed Action**

- The TAC will continue discussion on the following projects and make recommendations at a later date: (1)*Reclamation District No., 108 Consolidated Pumping Facility and Fish Screen*, (2)*Sacramento River Restoration:Chico Landing Sub-Reach*, (3)*Restoration of the Confluence of the Sacramento River, Big Chico Creek, and Mud Creeks*, and (4) *Implementing a Collaborative Approach to Quantifying Ecosystem Flow Regime Needs for the Sacramento River*.

▪ **Update on New Website –** Stacy Cepello, DWR, updated the group on the website that is being developed to provide both project tracking and public access information.

▪ **Next meeting-** June 20th, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows

SRCAF Board Meeting – May 23, 2002

Chair~ Ben Carter

❖ **Agency Reports -**

–Mark Charlton, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers(COE) informed the group the Corps is taking another look at those projects that have economical data over 5 years old. They will go back to the local reclamation districts and see whether or not they still want to proceed and, if so, they will “re-do” the economics.

–Sue Fry, Project Manager for the Sacramento/San Joaquin Rivers Comprehensive Study, gave an overview of the background of the Comprehensive Study and the current direction and focus. Because the needs and interests along the river are so varied, they are now looking at regional project areas rather than the one master plan.
–The Board moved to support Glenn County’s request that the COE study a multiple objective project for Hamilton City under the Initial Project section of the Comprehensive Study.

–Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish and Game, announced they will discuss the management plans being developed for their lands at the June 27th Board meeting.

❖ **CALFED Proposal Discussion -**

Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, presented a brief report on each of the three projects that were “Recommended for Funding” that had been reviewed by the TAC. The Board approved a motion to draft a letter to CALFED advising that these three projects had been reviewed and were determined to be consistent with the Handbook guidelines.

❖ **Board Committee Reports -**

–**Executive Committee** discussed Senator Boxer’s bill regarding the wilderness designation of 30,000 acres in Tehama and Shasta counties, the Sacramento River National

Conservation Area. It was suggested that Burt extend an invitation to both BLM and Friends of the River to come to the August or September Board meeting for informational purposes to help people better understand the legislation.

–**Landowner Assurances Committee** –

Continued discussion on the draft Good Neighbor Policy at the May 21st meeting. The Chairman commented that it is not ready for the Board as some of the policy actions involve very difficult issues and will take more time to resolve.

–**PILT/Economic Committee** – Chair Denny Bungarz reported there was no meeting in May. The next meeting will be June 10, 1:30 p.m. at the Glenn County Board of Supervisor’s conference room.

–**Outreach Committee** – Laura Allen, Chair, reported on the brochure that is in process. There will be another meeting in early June to look at a rough draft of the brochure.

–**TAC** – Chair Anjanette Martin reported on the project review at the May 16th meeting. She noted the “Project Fact Sheets” were used by the proponents to provide information to the TAC; use of the forms will help in consistency of data and as a base for project tracking.

❖ **Manager’s Report** –

–*Woodson Bridge* - Burt Bundy reported there is a possibility of asking the COE to engage in two studies, a Section 1135 Study for restoration of previous COE work and a section 14 Study for erosion protection.
–Brochures were made available to the Board of the California Water Plan Update 20003.

A nominating committee was formed, Denny Bungarz, Bill Borrer, Ben Carter, and Dan Silva, to work on names for the election of officers at the June meeting. Names will be e-mailed out for consideration prior to the meeting.

❖ **Next Meeting** –

The next meeting will be June 27th, 4:00 p.m. at Woodson Bridge.

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**Q What's happening at Woodson Bridge?**

**A** In 1986, a demonstration Bank Protection Project, known as the Palisades "flow modification system", consisting of driven pylons and nylon netting, was installed along Woodson Bridge State Park property upstream of Woodson Bridge. It reduced erosion to an oak forest, but created a navigational hazard for fishermen and boating enthusiasts. In 1997, most of the pylons and netting was removed by DWR. The rate of erosion on the park land drastically increased, with the flow direction changing to also erode the West abutment to Woodson Bridge. Homes and a sewer outfall for the City of Corning are also threatened.

For several years, first through the SB1086 Riparian Habitat Committee, then the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, Tehama County, DWR, State Parks, local landowners, and other groups have tried to accomplish a solution to the various problems at Woodson Bridge. The problem has not been, "finding" a solution, but "funding" it. DWR, with coordination through the SB1086 program, completed a "Long Term Solutions Study" that recommended a solution that was accepted by a broad group of interests. Simply, it would remove rock riprap upstream and place it downstream at the bridge abutment. This could accomplish several things: it would protect

Woodson Bridge, residences, and the sewer outfall; it would allow the river to re-establish an area of natural river movement in an area owned by the State; and, if the river moves back into Kopta Slough, it would reduce the erosion on both the Woodson Bridge State and County Parks, and the Bridge.

A win-win for all...right...until a funding source was sought. First problem: The Corps of Engineers authorized the rock. They don't unauthorize things without another study. Secondly, while Tehama County supports the idea and is responsible for Woodson Bridge, they have no funding for studies or the placement of rock. Third, the concept of removing and placing rock to allow river movement is kind of unusual—it raises enough questions to make funding sources nervous.

Fortunately, several studies and technical investigations have been done since the idea was first conceived. This information reduces a lot of the unknowns about the idea. Also, the Corps of Engineers is becoming a little more innovative and flexible in their efforts. There seems to be more of a willingness to "open the box" and look at different solutions that have broad based support. Maybe Woodson Bridge will lead the way in finding balanced solutions...

**~Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee Meetings~**

- ~The next **TAC** meeting will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. at the Willows City Hall, Willow
- ~The next **SRCAF Board meeting** will be June 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m., at Woodson Bridge, Tehama County River Park.
- ~The **Landowner Assurances Committee** will meet on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m., at the Colusa Fair Boar
- ~**PILT/Econ Committee** - June 10, 1:30 p.m., at the Board of Supervisor's conference room

